

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSBARRETT:BABS

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SENATE HEARINGS ON ETHIOPIAN SITUATION

REF: STATE 191591

1. PREPARED STATEMENT READ TO SUBCOMMITTEE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FORWARDED BY USINFO, AS WELL AS IPS ACCOUNT OF HEARINGS. ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ALSO HAS COPY. ZEWDE GEBRE SELASSIE DID NOT TESTIFY.

2. PRESS COVERAGE SO FAR HAS BEEN GENERALLY LOW-KEYED AND UNSENSATIONAL. HOWEVER, MURRAY MARDER ACCOUNT IN AUG 7 WASHINGTON POST IS MISLEADING IN TWO RESPECTS. IN EARLY PART OF STORY IT IS SAID THAT SCHAUFLE AGREED WITH SENATOR CLARK'S STATEMENT THAT "ETHIOPIA'S RULERS HAVE ENGAGED IN 'TORTURES, KILLINGS, IMPRISONMENT ON POLITICAL
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GROUND...." IN HIS REPLY TO CLARK'S QUESTION ON THIS

SUBJECT SCHAUFLE SPECIFIED THAT, WHILE THERE WERE SOME VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THESE WERE AS WIDESPREAD AND SEVERE AS DESCRIBED BY THE SENATOR AND THAT USG DID NOT PERCEIVE ANY CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. FURTHER ON, MARDER STORY IMPLIES THAT SCHAUFLE TESTIMONY CHARACTERIZED PMG AS PRO-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-AMERICAN. IN

HIS REPLIES TO CLARK, SCHAUFLE SPECIFICALLY DENIED THAT PMG WAS SYSTEMATICALLY OR INSTINCTIVELY ANTI-AMERICAN OR THAT IT COULD BE CALLED A MARXIST GOVT. BINDER STORY IN NEW YORK TIMES CORRECTLY REPORTS TESTIMONY ON THIS ASPECT. BOTH TIMES AND POST STORIES BEING FORWARDED BY UNINFO.

3. IN DISCUSSING HEARING AND PRESS COVERAGE WITH PMG, YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE THESE POINTS AND EMPHASIZE THAT PREPARED STATEMENT IS THE AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF US POLICY AND VIEWS. IF PMG SHOULD EXPRESS CONCERN OVER CAUTIONARY CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH IN SECTION ON US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS, YOU MAY SAY THAT, IN REPLY TO DIRECT QUESTION, SCHAUFLE SAID THAT THERE IS NOT AT THE PRESENT TIME ANY INTENTION TO REDUCE MILITARY OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA. YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO POINT OUT TO PMG THAT, ALTHOUGH PRESS COVERAGE DID NOT MENTION IT, SCHAUFLE ALSO SPOKE ON SOMALIA. HABIB

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